

Message Text

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00742 060910Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PER-03 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-04
ABF-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /045 W
-----060930Z 080658 /22

O R 051630Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7255
INFO AMEMBASSY ABDIJAN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 742

FOR AID SER/MO FOR THORNBURG

AFR/EMS FOR KEMPER, AF/EX, AF/W FROM THE AMBASSADOR

DAKAR FOR AMOS AND AID/W PERSONNEL TEAM

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO

MONROVIA FOR USIAD PASS DONNELLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMGT, AFSP, APER, EAID, PFOR, MR
SUBJECT: U.S. MISSION MAURITANIA SUPPORT

1. PROBLEM. WHILE GENERAL MAGNITUDE OF FUTURE SUPPORT TASK
FOR U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN MAURITANIA HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR SOME
TIME (FIRST FLAGGED TO WASHINGTON IN JULY 1975), SPECIFICS
OF TASK SIZE AND TIMING HAVE CRYSTALIZED ONLY SINCE RECENT CDO
WASHINGTON CONSULTATION AND LONG-AWAITED VISIT OF AID
MANAGEMENT OFFICER. U.S. MISSION MAURITANIA IS FACED
WITH IMMEDIATE REPEAT IMMEDIATE NEED TO EXPAND SUPPORT-
RELATED STAFF AND PROCURE OFFICE/WAREHOUSE FACILITIES AND HOUSING
IN ORDER TO MEET IMPENDING ARRIVAL STATE AND US PERSONNEL.
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TO PREPARE FOR JUNE/EARLY JULY 1977 ARRIVALS, MISSION MUST
OBTAIN AND FIT UP TWO (AND PERHAPS THREE) NEW HOUSES FOR
STATE, THREE NEW HOUSES FOR AID, CONVERT AID APARTMENTS
INTO OFFICE SPACE, LEASE AND FIT UP WAREHOUSE/MAINTENANCE
FACILITY. IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER MISSION MUST OBTAIN OF-
FICE AND RESIDENTIAL SPACE FOR SIX TO NINE AID CONTRACT
EMPLOYEES, TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ARRIVE AUGUST / SEPTEMBER
1977.

PROJECTED EXPANSION AID ACTIVITIES BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 1978

COULD RESULT IN REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE FULL SUPPORT TO APPROXIMATELY 8 ADDITIONAL AID DIRECT HIRE AND PSC PERSONNEL (OVER PRESENT ON-BOARD LEVEL OF 4), 26 AID CONTRACT PERSONNEL. TOTAL 35 ADDITIONAL EMPLOYEES PLUS ANY DEPENDENTS. ARRIVAL THESE PERSONNEL BETWEEN NOW AND JULY 1978 BASED ON MOST OPTIMISTIC MOVEMENT OF AID PROJECT AND STUDY PREPARATION DOCUMENTATION THROUGHOUT OUR OWN AND GIRM BUREAUCRACY, WITH RESULT SOME ARRIVALS MAY BE DELAYED. IT IS NEVER- THE LESS CLEAR WE MUST MAKE PREPARATION FOR A DRASTIC INCREASE IN AID AND CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL OVER NEXT YEAR TO YEAR AND ONE-HALF. PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL SERVICE STAFF INADEQUATE TO SUPPORT PRESENT U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL ASSIGNED NOUAKCHOTT CLEARLY IT IS INADEQUATE TO HANDLE ANTICIPATED INCREASE.

2. DISCUSSION. A. IT IS PAINFULLY APPARENT HERE IN NOUAKCHOTT THAT U.S. MISSION DOES NOT RPT NOT HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR PRESENT RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND PERSONNEL LEVELS. WE HAVE TWO U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL (ONE DUE TO DEPART JUNE 1 WITH NO REPLACEMENT NAMED) AND DOING THEIR BEST TO KEEP ABREAST OF CURRENT WORKLOAD AND PLAN/PREPARE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF PERSONNEL NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO WHICH U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY COMMITTED ITSELF(ALTHOUGH NO UNCLASSIFIED

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PROAGS HAVE BEEN SIGNED AS YET).

B. TO DELAY ANY FURTHER CRITICAL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS SUCH AS IDENTIFICATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND PREPARATION OF WAREHOUSE AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IS TO COURT CERTAIN DISASTER IN IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. ISSUE OF WHO IS GOING TO PROCURE COMMODITIES AND PARTS, PROVIDE MAINTENANCE, LEASE SPACE, SUPERVISE LOCAL EMPLOYEE STAFF (OF WHICH SIGNIFICANT INCREASE NEEDED) ARRANGE CUSTOMS CLEARANCES AND TRANSPORTATION MUST BE ADDRESSED AND RESOLVED NOW. AT SAME TIME WE MUST BEGIN TO MOVE AHEAD TO ATTRACT USG PERSONNEL AND CONTRACTORS TO LIVE AND WORK IN DIFFICULT ENVIRONMENT OF MAURITANIA, ONE CRITICAL ELEMENT OF WHICH IS ADEQUACY OF SUPPORT SERVICES.

C. I BELIEVE THAT ACTIONS REQUESTED BELOW REPRESENT SIMPLY MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS OF PROGRAM DECISIONS MADE OVER PAST 2-3 YEARS AND FALL WELL WITHIN PURVIEW OF AFRICAN BUREAUS IN BOTH STATE AND A.I.D. IN THE SEVERAL U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HERE IN MAURITANIA FUNCTION AS ONE MISSION. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT STATE AND A.I.D. IN WASHINGTON WILL ADDRESS THESE CRITICAL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS IN THE SAME SPIRIT AND RESPOND PROMPTLY TO OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN: DEP/DIR AF/EX, A.I.D. VEHICLE SURVEY TEAM, A.I.D.

COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY TECHNICIANS, REDSO REGIONAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER HESTER AND AID/W MANAGEMENT OFFICER FOR AFRICA HAVE VISITED POST RECENTLY AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO DEFINITION OF OUR PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSED SOLUTIONS. REGIONAL A.I.D. CONTROLLER AMOS WILL BE ARRIVING IN FEW DAYS TO UPDATE CDO MOB. IN LIGHT OF FINDINGS OF HESTER WITH REGARD TO PERSONNEL, OFFICE AND SUPPORT RELATED SPACE, ETC., IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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CDO RELATED BUDGET OR PROCUREMENT ACTION REQUEST SUBMITTED TO STATE/A.I.D. IN WASHINGTON BE ACTED UPON PROMPTLY.

B. INVIEW OF FACT THAT USAID COMPONENT OF THIS MISSION WILL SOON BE LARGER THAN ALL OTHER COMPONENTS COMBINED WE MUST QUICKLY REVISE OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STRUCTURE AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL FACILITIES WHICH ARE REQUIRED. MISSION PLANS TO CREATE CROSS-SERVICING METHOD OF SUPPORT WHEREBY STATE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR ALL COMPONENTS OF MISSION: C AND R, HEALTH UNIT, BUDGET (FAAS), CASHIER SERVICES, PERSONNEL SUPPORT, ADMINISTRATIVE PROCUREMENT AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCES. USAID WILL BE TASKED WITH PROVIDING WAREHOUSE FACILITIES, SHIPPING AND RECEIVING PROJECT PROCUREMENT, PROPERTY RECORDS, LEASING, REAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND A JOINT MOTOR POOL/VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY FOR ALL COMPONENTS OF MISSION. DUE TO IMMEDIACY OF REQUIREMENT, WE MUST LEASE A GENERAL SERVICES FACILITY OUTSIDE USG-OWNED COMPOUND TO BE SUPERVISED BY U.S. DIRECT HIRE EMPLOYEES AND STAFFED BY LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN WIDE RANGE MAINTENANCE, WAREHOUSE AND I C D SUPPORT FIELDS. FUNDS PROBABLY ARE AVAILABLE IN CDO MOB, BUT WE SHOULD KNOW DEFINITELY AFTER ARRIVAL OF AMOS.

C. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT ABOVE PLANNING IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SEVERAL ADDITIONAL U.S. DIRECT HIRE STAFF WILL BE NEEDED. AS A STARTER, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED IMMEDIATE NEED FOR TWO (2) U.S. AID DIRECT HIRE IN BACKSTOP CODES 03 OR 06 QUALIFIED TO PERFORM DUTIES OUTLINED ABOVE. THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES MY APPROVAL FOR A MODE INCREASE IN THE AID U.S. DIRECT-HIRE STAFF CEILING FROM SEVEN (7) TO NINE (9). REQUEST THAT (1) A.I.D. /W AND DEPARTMENT PROCESS NECESSARY APPROVALS UNDER MODE PROCEDURE AND (2) IDENTIFY AND ASSIGN THESE EMPLOYEES TO CDO/NOUAKCHOTT. WE ARE ACUTELY AWARE THAT LIMITATIONS OF MAURITANIA WITH RESPECT TO SCHOOLS, ETC. COMPLICATE THIS TASK FOR ASSIGNMENT BOARD; HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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WE ARE WORKING TOMAKE THIS POST ATTRACTIVE TO THOSE
INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO PARTICIPATE IN A UNIQUE AND HOPE-
FULLY REWARDING DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE. CLEARLY, ADMINIS-
TRATIVE SUPPORT OF USG AND CONTRACT PERSONNEL IS A KEY
FACTOR IN THIS PROCESS.

D. BECAUSE THERE IS NOT INFRASTRUCTURE HERE WITHIN THE
GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE SECTOR, U.S. MISSION MUST UNDERTAKE TO
PROVIDE A RATHER EXTENSIVE RANGE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT TO
CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL AT LEAST IN INITIAL STAGES OF OUR
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, I.E. OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS.

E. SEPARATE MESSAGE IS BEING SENT REQUESTING TDY SERVICES
OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO ASSIST CDO IN
MANAGEMENT AREA DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. REQUEST EVERY
EFFORT BE MADE TO PROVIDE THIS SUPPORT EITHER WITH
IN-HOUSE OR BY CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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